

Laboratory SOP 15  
Revised: May 10, 1996  
Reissued: December 6, 1996  
Revised: February 21, 1997  
Revised: June 28, 1999  
Revised: July 1, 2003  
Revised: November 29, 2004

**Georgia Department of Transportation**  
**Office of Materials and Research**

**Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) 15**  
**Certified Public Weighers**

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**I. General**

In order to assure accurate weights of materials supplied for Department work, a program is utilized whereby Certified Public Weighers will oversee the weighing of highway construction materials when they are weighed prior to delivery. While the Specifications will require essentially all such materials to be weighed by a Certified Public Weigher, some provisions will be made so that State personnel can supervise the weighing of small quantities of materials when it is unreasonable to require a Certified Public Weigher. Further, it is the intent of this program to attain uniform compliance with the State Law governing load limits of trucks. Refer to Subsection 107.14 of the Specifications and the attached [Bridge Formula Table](#).

The basic principles of the certification program will be as follows:

**A. Certified Public Weigher**

Certified Public Weighers will be provided by the materials producers or contractors to oversee the weighing of materials used in highway construction.

**B. Rules and Regulations**

Rules and Regulations for Georgia Certified Public Weighers are provided by Georgia Law under Official Code Georgia Annotated Section 10-2-5 of the Georgia Weights and Measures Act. This is administered by the [Georgia Department of Agriculture](#).

Information about becoming a Certified Public Weigher in Georgia may be obtained from:

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The Fuel and Measures Division  
Georgia Department of Agriculture  
Capitol Square  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334  
Telephone No. (404) 656-3704

### **C. Certified or Licensed Weighers from Other States**

Requirements for certified or licensed weighers from other states shall be in accordance with applicable laws and regulations in those states. Documentation of weight tickets for materials shipped from other states shall be in accordance with [Section IV](#) of this Standard Operating Procedure.

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Application to become a Certified or Licensed Weigher in Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, or Tennessee shall be made to:

[Alabama Department of Agriculture](#)

Division of Weights and Measures  
P.O. Box 3336  
Montgomery, Alabama 36109-0336  
Attention: Sharon Boyd  
Telephone: (334) 240-7171

[North Carolina Department of Agriculture](#)

Standards Division  
P.O. Box 27647  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27611  
Telephone: (919) 733-3313

[South Carolina Department of Agriculture](#)

P.O. Box 11280  
Columbia, South Carolina 29211  
Telephone: (803) 734-2210

[Tennessee Department of Agriculture](#)

Office of Weights and Measures  
P.O. Box 40627  
Melrose Station  
Nashville, Tennessee 37204  
Telephone: (615) 360-0159

When materials are paid for based on weight and originate from a state which has no certified weigher program, such as Florida, the materials shall be weighed on approved scales located in the State of Georgia by a Certified Public Weigher.

### **D. License and Seal Required**

Each Certified or Licensed Weigher must have a license and seal in accordance with applicable laws and regulations of the state in which they are located.

### **E. Certified Scales**

All materials must be weighed on scales which have been approved for accuracy by the Fuel and Measures Division of the [Georgia Department of Agriculture](#) for materials weighed in Georgia and by the appropriate officials as required by laws and regulations in other states.

### **F. Tare Weights**

It will be the responsibility of the producer or supplier to establish tare weights of all haul vehicles at random times during the day. A copy of the list of these weights will be provided to the Engineer when requested. Suppliers of materials weighed by approved net weight devices shall record the stored tare weights for the haul vehicles on a tare weight sheet with the date that tare weights were obtained. Also, the supplier shall include a comment that the material is being weighed on an approved net weight device. Suppliers of materials that obtain tare weights of individual loads will record the tare weight of the first load for each haul vehicle on a tare weight sheet. In this case, a comment that each load is to be individually tared shall be included on the tare weight list.

### **G. Certified Weights**

The weighing of each load shall be observed by the Certified Public Weighers. The certified weights shall represent materials actually delivered to a project and used in the work. A material which is stockpiled must be weighed by a Certified Public Weigher when it is hauled from the stockpile and placed in the work. Unless notified in writing by the [Office of Materials and Research](#), the acceptable procedure for documenting the scale ticket on State projects shall be in accordance with [Section IV](#) of this Standard Operating Procedure.

### **H. Random Reweighing of Loads**

At random times a Department of Transportation representative shall direct one or more loaded and/or unloaded vehicles to be reweighed. This requirement will be performed by Testing Management personnel at asphalt plants, and by Pit and Quarry Control personnel at aggregate sources or [Contract Administration](#) personnel at either source. The vehicle may be reweighed either on the scales on which the original weight was made or on another set of approved scales.

### **I. Posting of Certified Public Weigher's Certificate**

The Certified Public Weigher's certificate shall be posted near the weigh indicator in full view.

### **J. Approved List of Certified Public Weighers**

Approved lists of Certified Public Weighers will be maintained by the Fuel and Measures Division of the Department of Agriculture.

### **K. Exceptions**

The requirements of Paragraph H above concerning weight checks of trucks is not applicable to the items of Portland cement, bituminous materials, and fertilizer mixed grade when these items are paid for separately by weight.

## **II. Invalid Weights**

In the event a significant difference is discovered in weights recorded by the Certified Public Weigher and the checks made by the Department personnel, a full investigation will be made to determine if any significant shortages of material have occurred. If it is found that the Certified Public Weigher recorded an invalid weight, that person will not be allowed to certify further weights pending an investigation. In addition, the appropriate

officials who administer the Certified Public Weigher Program in the state where the violation occurred will be notified so they can take any action they deem necessary.

### III. Surveillance of Truck Weights for Legality

The Certified Public Weigher shall maintain sufficient checks on all vehicle weights to assure that trucks exceeding the gross weight limits are not dispatched; however, the Certified Public Weigher will not be required to assure compliance with axle and tandem limits. Issuance of a weight ticket by a Certified Public Weigher will not relieve the owner or operator of a truck from the responsibility of knowing and complying with maximum axle, maximum tandem, maximum gross, and applicable bridge formula limits.

Trucks traveling on the Interstate system will be limited to the maximum loads shown in the attached [Bridge Formula Table](#). The Certified Public Weigher will be responsible for ascertaining from the driver whether a truck will be operating on the Interstate System, as well as its length from front to rear axle, so the maximum load can be determined from the [Bridge Formula Table](#).

### IV. Weight Ticket Requirements

The Department of Transportation will accept only the original copy of a weight ticket as the "copy of record" for payment except when a producer can demonstrate a compelling reason to retain the original copy, arrangements may be made to designate a certain copy as the "copy of record" for the producer.

The [Office of Materials and Research](#) will maintain a list of exceptions to the requirement for the original copy of the weight ticket. Other exceptions, if necessary, will be approved through the [Office of Contract Administration](#).

One copy of each weight ticket shall be retained by the Engineer as the "copy of record." The Certified Public Weigher will sign his or her official registered signature and place his or her seal number on each "copy of record" ticket.

If another Certified Public Weigher weighs and processes tickets during the day, he or she must use his or her official signature and seal number on each ticket.

The Certified Public Weigher must be the person actually operating the scale and weight recording equipment. Under no circumstances may a Certified Public Weigher place his or her seal and signature on a ticket for which he or she has not actually operated the scale and weight recording equipment.

Each ticket must be legibly marked by printer with the following:

1. Gross, Tare, and Net Weight
2. Date
3. Time of batch or loading
4. Preprinted sequential ticket number (for Auto Ticketing Systems, computer generated sequential ticket number may be accepted when approved by the [Office of Materials and Research](#))

Each ticket must also be legibly marked, either by imprint, printer, or by hand, with all of the following information:

1. Load number

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2. Truck number
3. Certified Public Weigher seal number
4. Certified Public Weigher signature (by hand or electronically affixed)
5. Project number
6. Description of material including mix type, mix design level and inclusion of hydrated lime/anti-stripping additives and asphalt grade. For example: 12.5 mm SP (C) W/HL & PG 76-22. This designation indicates that a 12.5 mm Superpave level C mix with hydrated lime and polymer modified asphalt PG 76-22 is being used.

Payment will not be made for tickets lacking the information specified above. With response to the requirement for preprinted sequential ticket numbers, it is not a requirement that every ticket be in strict, unbroken sequence; however, tickets must be in reasonable sequence. The Department reserves the right not to accept tickets grossly out of sequence. Strikeovers by plant or contractor personnel of the above required information are generally not acceptable; however, isolated instances of Strikeovers initialed by the person making the correction, may be accepted at the Department's discretion.

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Georgene M. Geary, P.E.  
State Materials and Research Engineer

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Glenn W. Durrence, P.E.  
Director of Construction

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### Bridge Formula Table

Permissible gross loads for vehicles in regular operation

Based on weight formula  $W = 500(LN/N-1 + 12N + 36)$

Where:

W = the maximum weight in pounds that can be carried on a group of two or more axles to the nearest 500 pounds

L = the distance in feet between the outer axles of any two or more consecutive axles

N = the number of axles being considered

Distance in feet between the extremes  of any group of 2 or more consecutive axles	Maximum load in pounds carried on any group of 2 or more consecutive axles							
	2 axles	3 axles	4 axles	5 axles	6 axles	7 axles	8 axles	9 axles
4-----	34,000	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
--		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-----	34,000	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
--		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
6-----	34,000	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
--		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7-----	34,000	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
--		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8 and less-----	34,000	34,000	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
--			-	-	-	-	-	-
More than 8-----	38,000	42,000	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
---			-	-	-	-	-	-
9-----	39,000	42,500	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
--			-	-	-	-	-	-
10-----	40,000	43,500	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
--			-	-	-	-	-	-
11-----	-----	44,000	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
--	-		-	-	-	-	-	-
12-----	-----	45,000	50,000	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
--	-			-	-	-	-	-
13-----	-----	45,500	50,500	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
--	-			-	-	-	-	-
14-----	-----	46,500	51,500	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
--	-			-	-	-	-	-
15-----	-----	47000	52,000	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
--	-			-	-	-	-	-
16-----	-----	48,000	52,500	58,000	-----	-----	-----	-----

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--	-				-	-	-	-
17-----	-----	48,500	53,500	58,000	-----	-----	-----	-----
--	-				-	-	-	-
18-----	-----	49,500	54,000	59,000	-----	-----	-----	-----
--	-				-	-	-	-
19-----	-----	50,000	54,500	60,000	-----	-----	-----	-----
--	-				-	-	-	-
20-----	-----	51,000	55,500	60,500	66,000	-----	-----	-----
--	-				-	-	-	-
21-----	-----	51,500	56,000	61,000	66,500	-----	-----	-----
--	-				-	-	-	-
22-----	-----	52,500	56,500	61,500	67,000	-----	-----	-----
--	-				-	-	-	-
23-----	-----	53,000	57,500	62,500	68,000	-----	-----	-----
--	-				-	-	-	-
24-----	-----	54,000	58,000	63,000	68,500	74,000	-----	-----
--	-				-	-	-	-
25-----	-----	54,500	58,500	63,500	69,000	74,500	-----	-----
--	-				-	-	-	-
26-----	-----	55,500	59,500	64,000	69,500	75,000	-----	-----
--	-				-	-	-	-
27-----	-----	56,000	60,000	65,000	70,000	75,500	-----	-----
--	-				-	-	-	-
28-----	-----	57,000	60,500	65,500	71,000	76,500	82,000	-----
--	-				-	-	-	-
29-----	-----	57,500	61,500	66,000	71,500	77,000	82,500	-----
--	-				-	-	-	-
30-----	-----	58,500	62,000	66,500	72,000	77,500	83,000	-----
--	-				-	-	-	-
31-----	-----	59,000	62,500	67,500	72,500	78,000	83,500	-----
--	-				-	-	-	-
32-----	-----	60,000	63,500	68,000	73,000	78,500	84,500	90,000
--	-				-	-	-	-
33-----	-----	-----	64,000	68,500	74,000	79,000	85,000	90,500
--	-	-			-	-	-	-
34-----	-----	-----	64,500	69,000	74,500	80,000	85,500	91,000
--	-	-			-	-	-	-
35-----	-----	-----	65,500	70,000	75,000	80,500	86,000	91,500
--	-	-			-	-	-	-
36-----	-----	-----	66,000	70,500	75,500	81,000	86,500	92,000
--	-	-			-	-	-	-
37-----	-----	-----	66,500	71,000	76,000	81,500	87,000	93,000
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38-----	-----	-----	67,500	71,500	77,000	82,000	87,500	93,500
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39-----	-----	-----	68,000	72,500	77,500	82,500	88,500	94,000
--	-	-						
40-----	-----	-----	68,500	73,000	78,000	83,500	89,000	94,500
--	-	-						
41-----	-----	-----	69,500	73,500	78,500	84,000	89,500	95,000
--	-	-						
42-----	-----	-----	70,000	74,000	79,000	84,500	90,000	95,500
--	-	-						
43-----	-----	-----	70,500	75,000	80,000	85,000	90,500	96,000
--	-	-						
44-----	-----	-----	71,500	75,500	80,500	85,500	91,000	96,500
--	-	-						
45-----	-----	-----	72,000	76,000	81,000	86,000	91,500	97,500
--	-	-						
46-----	-----	-----	72,500	76,500	81,500	87,000	92,500	98,000
--	-	-						
47-----	-----	-----	73,500	77,500	82,000	87,500	93,000	98,500
--	-	-						
48-----	-----	-----	74,000	78,000	83,000	88,000	93,500	99,000
--	-	-						
49-----	-----	-----	74,500	78,500	83,500	88,500	94,000	99,500
--	-	-						
50-----	-----	-----	75,500	79,000	84,000	89,000	94,500	100,000
--	-	-						
51-----	-----	-----	76,000	80,000	84,500	89,500	95,000	100,500
--	-	-						
52-----	-----	-----	76,500	80,500	85,000	90,500	95,500	101,000
--	-	-						
53-----	-----	-----	77,500	81,000	86,000	91,000	96,500	102,000
--	-	-						
54-----	-----	-----	78,000	81,500	86,500	91,500	97,000	102,500
--	-	-						
55-----	-----	-----	78,500	82,500	87,000	92,000	97,500	103,000
--	-	-						
56-----	-----	Gross }	79,500	83,000	87,500	92,500	98,000	103,500
--	-							
57-----	-----	Weight	80,000	83,500	88,000	93,000	98,500	104,000
--	-	Limit}						
58-----	-----	-----	-----	84,000	89,000	94,000	99,000	104,500
--	-	-	-					
59-----	-----	-----	-----	85,000	89,500	94,500	99,500	105,000

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60-----	-----	-----	-----	85,500	90,000	95,000	100,500	105,500
--	-	-	-					